

**Agency: Department of Natural Resources****Project Title:**

# Settlers Cove State Park Facilities Upgrades and Road Repair

**State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: 1 - A****Brief Project Description:**

Funding for health and safety improvements and maintenance to state park facilities and access road.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$50,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Item is \$50,000 for road maintenance and improvements at Settlers Cove State Park in Ketchikan. The park is a popular recreation site for residents and visitors, but has not had any major road maintenance since 1985. Funding would provide for grading and repairs to the park access road, parking lot, and loop road. The maintenance would allow for a more stable road, better drainage, and make access to the park safer for residents and visitors.

**Project Timeline:**

FY09

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Ketchikan Gateway Borough or Designee

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Michael Eberhardt

Phone Number: 465-2481

Address: 400 Willoughby Avenue 4th Flr

Email: michael.eberhardt@alaska.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



## Infrastructure and Improvements at Settlers Cove for Health & Safety

**Project Summary and Overview:** This project has 3 components within it; to replace outhouses, increase day use parking areas, and repair and upgrade the park road and facilities. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$245,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Settlers Cove is an extremely popular park that not only provides for camping, but has tremendous day use activities that include sunbathing, swimming, kayaking, picnicking, berry picking, shore-fishing, wildlife viewing, and access to 6 miles of trail hiking, etc. Settlers Cove is a major attraction for the community and visitors. Numerous community events are held annually at this park. There are two small parking lots that at most will accommodate 25- 30 vehicles in total. There are 2 deteriorating outhouse buildings with 4 stalls each. Estimated vehicle counts for day use traffic during 2006 totaled 18,600 vehicles that visited the park.

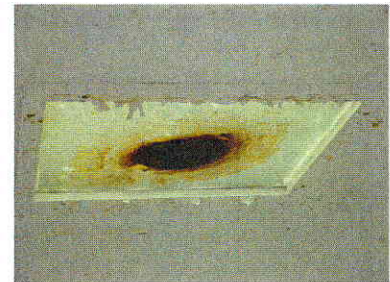
State Parks ability to attract and provide a high quality experience and/or collect camping and day use fees from either local residents or outside visitors will continue to lessen as the conditions and safety of the outhouses, road, campsites and lack of parking are deferred. For out-of-state visitors, Ketchikan is the gateway to Alaska. Our community provides the first impressions of our community and State, but also reflects on the support given to the state park system.

### Project Funding Specifics:

**A). Outhouses replacements at Settlers Cove SRS:** estimated \$30,000 each: Two (2) single units are required in the campground area, and another two (2) single units are required for the day use area. The total required is 4 single cement units. The current outhouses were installed around 1983. The



outhouse vaults appear to be cracked because they do not hold water and likely are leaking septic water into the environment. The roofs, ceilings and walls of the buildings are rotting, and does not hold paint any longer due to the constant dampness. Both outhouse buildings need to be replaced with cement buildings that do not require as much maintenance. (\$120,000 total for 4 single units)



**B). Increase day use parking:** estimated \$50,000: Limited parking spaces in the lots, forces people to park vehicles along side the road exiting the park. Expand parking lot and add angle in parking on park road with a walkway in front of parking. Frequently vehicles parked on the roadway extend out of the park along North Tongass Hwy. for about a quarter



*(Continued on page 42)*





# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



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mile. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic. Safety is a major concern in the park, as children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane.



**C). Road repair and park facilities upgrade;** estimated \$75,000: The park entrance road, the parking lots, and campground loop road need more gravel, grading, resurfacing and better drainage. The park entrance road and parking lots have not had any major improvements since 1985, and require resurfacing. The park road is full of large potholes, and has gullies, that practically become small rivers during wet spells. This erosion of the road bed will eventually lead to total road destabilization. To reduce continuous deterioration and maintenance costs the road should be chip sealed.



Campsites would be redesigned to adequately address issues related to the number of vehicles allowed per site versus camping area. Parking bumpers at campsites need replacing because they are rotting, and have been used as chopping blocks and no longer effective. All of the campsites would be resurfaced and leveled.

The roof and fascia would be replaced on picnic shelters.

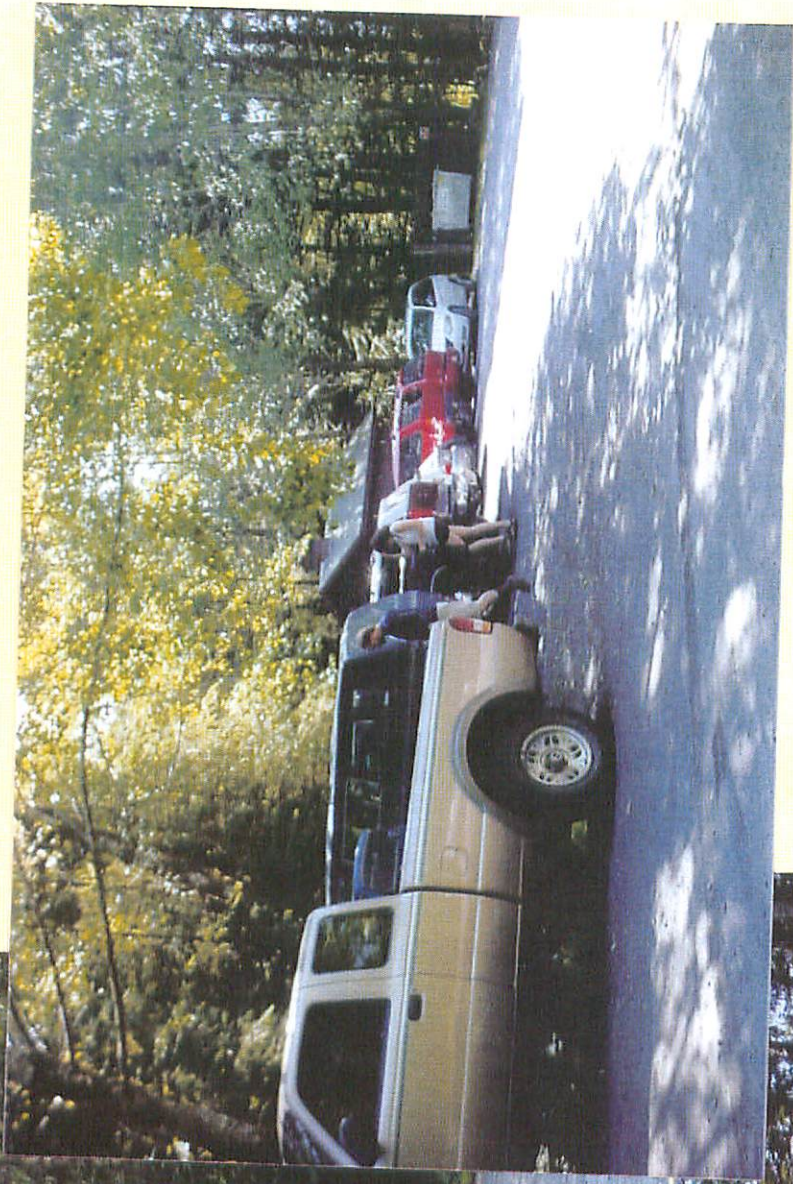
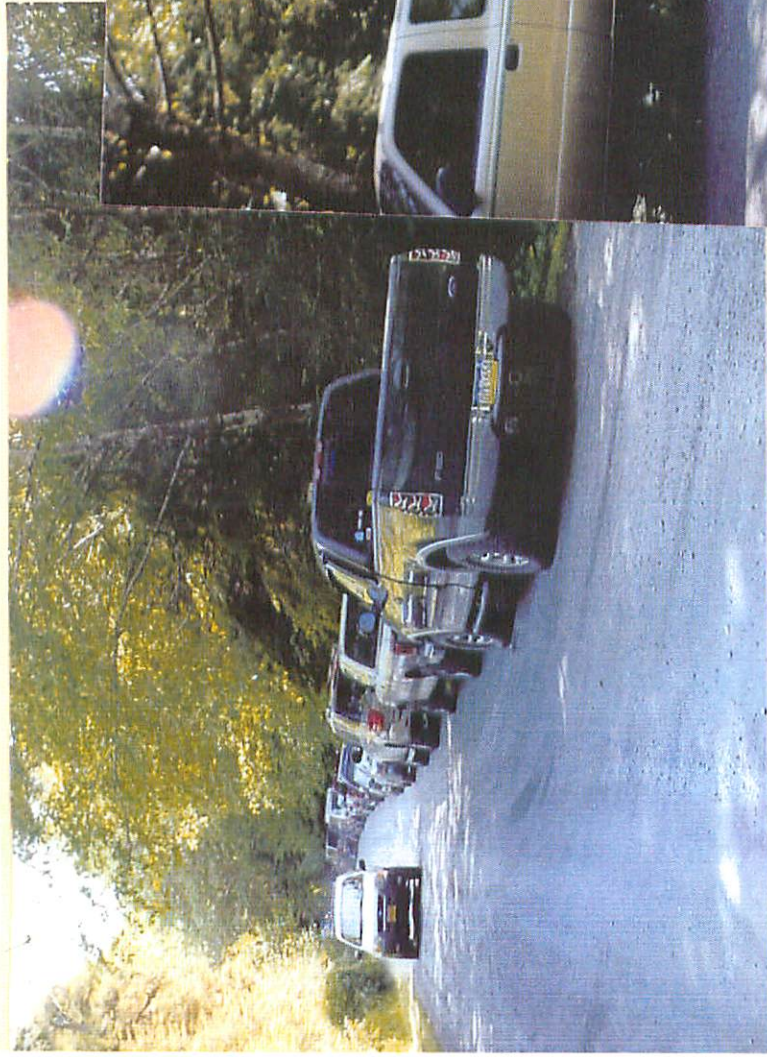
Beach access from the campground would be relocated to provide better traffic flow, and to prevent unauthorized trails and cuts through campsites from being developed.

Interpretive signs and new kiosks would be added. Unique features in this park include the evidence of SE Alaska Native presence, spawning fish stream, extremely large cedar and spruce trees-temperate rainforest, sandy beach-glacial valley, and historic skid log road.

Complete construction of a bathhouse with a water and septic system at volunteer caretaker cabin site for increased volunteer satisfaction, retention, and recruitment.



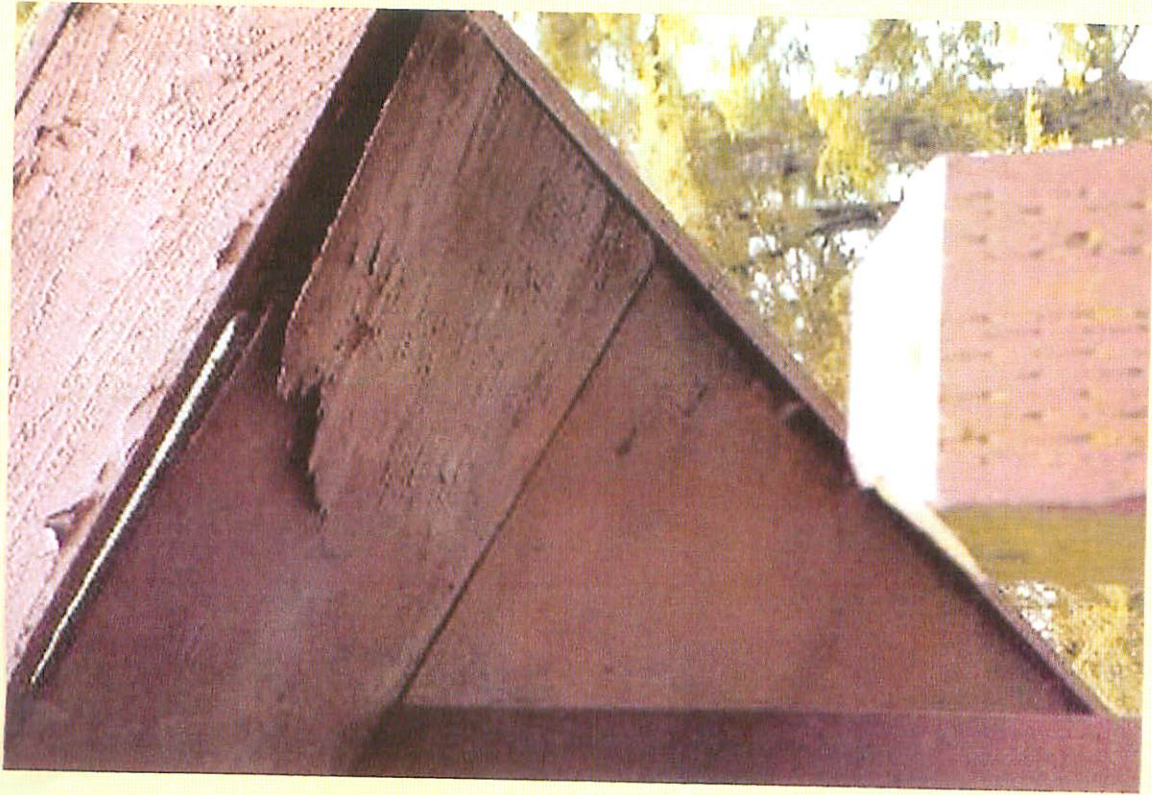




Settlers Cove  
State Rec. Site

— Parking Needs to be  
Expanded





Settlers Cove State  
Rec. Site

- Needs new outhouses





Settlers Cove State Park  
Road Repairs



State Parks received \$50,000 for FY 07 for deferred maintenance on this project. It is expected that the funds will go toward upgrading the water and septic system, along with minor improvements to the shop. More funding is needed to meet basic compliances

### **Project: Infrastructure and Improvements at Settlers Cove for Health & Safety**

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### **Project: Infrastructure Improvements and Rehabilitation for Refuge Cove, Black Sands Beach, and Grindall Island SMP -Public Use Cabin**

**Project Summary:** This project has 3 components within it. The first is to improve and increase parking, replace the outhouse, upgrade picnic facilities, and provide ADA trail access at Refuge Cove. The two additional components will provide a shelter, outhouses, and facility upgrades to 2 marine parks. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$163,500 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. It addresses health and safety issues of facilities and/or parking issues in three park units that have deteriorated because of lack of maintenance funds. They need to be repaired and upgraded.

Refuge Cove State Recreation Site is along Sunset Drive, a short distance from town, and is very popular for evening and weekend family picnics. There is only one small designated parking area for about 5-6 cars, and that area is sloughing into the ocean. After the parking lot is full, vehicles park alongside Sunset Drive. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic, creating a safety problem for park and neighborhood traffic. Children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane, or vehicles pull to close to the edge to avoid pedestrians or oncoming traffic, and end up in the ditch.

The picnic tables were replaced about 14 years ago with recycled plastic wood. This material is now substandard. All of the 9 fire grills have completely rusted out and have been removed because of concerns they could topple over and injure someone. If fire grills are not replaced, the tendency is to have fires on the ground surface which eventually burn deep into the forest duff because of the peat-like subsurface.